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signal when the disk is heated by the heating element, reads the reference signal, and normalizes the test signal with the reference signal.

6. (Amended) A method for testing a thermal decay of a disk of a hard disk drive, comprising:

writing a reference signal onto a reference track of the disk;

writing a test signal onto the disk;

actively reducing an amplitude of the reference signal;

heating a portion of the disk;

reading the test signal from the heated portion of the disk;

reading the reference signal; and

normalizing the test signal with the reference signal.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the amplitude of the reference signal is reduced with a DC erase signal.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the amplitude of the reference signal is reduced 60 to 80% of a peak value.

The applicant has attached an edited version of the amended claims as an Appendix.

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The applicant has amended claims 7 and 8 to correct the deficiency noted by the Examiner. The applicant therefore submits that claims 7 and 8 now comply with the second paragraph of §112.